

Lake County Juvenile Court

Probation Department

Probation is the most widely used correctional technique to address delinquent behavior. The primary assumption underlying probation is that the individual offender can be most effectively helped within his own community, as opposed to placing him in an institutional setting. The goal of probation is to enable the individual to remain in the community by assisting him to make the behavioral and attitudinal changes necessary for him to function as a law-abiding citizen.

Creating or helping to create changes in anyone's behavior is a difficult and complex task. Nevertheless, this is a probation officer's primary function. In order to accomplish this, the probation officer must call upon all of the resources available. This entails the establishment and maintenance of a trusting and honest relationship as well as the ability to understand the personalized problems that the probationer may be experiencing. There are a number of techniques that may be used in this process: counseling, both family and individual; removing the child from his environment; addressing specific issues such as drug/alcohol use, physical abuse, etc.

The rules of probation, which are established by order of the Court, are the most important and effective tools used by the probation officer. These rules are designed to establish parameters of acceptable behavior for the probationer and are

consistently enforced by the probation officer. Once the individual's behavior is within the parameters established by the rules of probation, it is then the probation officer's task to help the probationers internalize their behaviors through the use of counseling and guidance. All available community resources and programs are utilized to assist probationers and their families to make the necessary changes in their lives.

The Lake County Juvenile Court has twelve probation officers to cover the entire county. Two of these officers supervise specialized caseloads such as children who are severely behavioral handicapped children, children in residential placement and children in need of intensive close day to day supervision.

Each probationer is seen by his/her probation officer bi-weekly (more/less often depending upon circumstances) in school, their homes, and in community settings. The "average" length that a child is on probation is nine months. Some children are under court supervision much longer depending upon the nature of their offense and/or adjustment to probation supervision.

RULES OF JUVENILE PROBATION

- 1. You will be required to meet with your probation officer on a regular schedule. You are also required to bring your home report with you for each meeting.**
- 2. If you are attending school, you will attend school regularly and obey all school regulations. Suspension or expulsion from school is a violation of this rule. If you are not attending school, you may be required to attend the Juvenile Court Academic Program, unless you have a valid work permit and a full-time job as required by law.**
- 3. The possession or use of alcohol, drugs, or paraphernalia is prohibited. Compliance with this rule will be monitored through random drug screens.**
- 4. You will obey all reasonable and proper rules of the home including home study program as jointly imposed by the parent and the probation officer, and you will keep your parents advised of your whereabouts at all times.**
- 5. You will not associate with any person with whom you have been involved in any violation or who is presently on probation or parole.**
- 6. Your curfew while on probation will be:**

Age 14 or under	9:00 PM
Age 15 - 16	10:00 PM

Age 17 or older 11:00 PM

You may be out later if you are with your parents. One night per week you may request a late night from your probation officer.

7. You will obey all rules while participating in any Court program or while a resident of the Detention Center.

8. You will obey all laws, ordinances and regulations.

9. Special Rules:

A)

B)

C)

Violation of any of the rules of probation is a delinquent offense and may result in a court appearance. The length of your probation will depend upon your attitude and behavior. If your progress is satisfactory, you may be discharged from probation by the court at the request of your probation officer.

Every youth that is placed on probation will have an OYAS assessment completed to determine risk level, supervision level and the appropriate services to address the client's needs. Upon completion of the assessment each probation officer will determine the number and type of contact based on the determined risk level.

In addition to contacts, a probation officer will target each of the seven domains (Juvenile Justice History; Family and Living Arrangements; Peers and Social Support; Education/Employment; Pro-social Skill Set; Substance Abuse, Personality and Mental Health; Attitudes, Values and Beliefs) that score as medium or high risk with the appropriate services within the Court or agencies within the community. These services will specifically meet a client's need in an attempt to reduce that risk level. The OYAS assessment is updated every six months or when a youth has a new filing in order to determine whether the client's needs have changed.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

Parents are required to advise the probation officer whenever they become aware of any violation of the rules of probation.

Parents by law are financially responsible for each delinquent act committed by their